

## Relationship Reflects Reality - Matthew 7

### Review

- The Rabbi is teaching.
  - Last week talked about recognition and rewards. Who are you doing it for? Exaggerated form of making points, very rabbinic.
  - Was Jesus telling them to compartmentalize their lives into private and public? No, He was challenging them on their motives.
- Get back in the flow of the teaching. This first bit flows from the previous bit.
- Also key, this is not evangelistic. This is to people who were already living for God.

### Matthew 7

#### - 7:1-6

- **7:1-2** One of the most misunderstood and therefore misused verses. Why?
  - Context, context, context.
  - Look at it in the flow. Makes sense, judging hypocrites, maybe Gentiles.
  - Word from which we get "critic." Not condemning.
  - Is Jesus saying to never critique? No, context.
- **7:3-5** Is the issue being a non-sinner before confronting someone else?
  - No, it's about specific areas of sin. **Romans 2:1-5, 21-22**. David and Nathan's lamb story.
  - They say that the stuff we see in others is the stuff we see in ourselves.
  - We are supposed to lovingly, with humility and sometimes boldness, confront sin in the body. **1 Corinthians 5:9-13**.
- **7:6** Do so with discretion. Chiasmus, ABBA pattern. View of dogs and pigs.

#### - 7:7-12

- Fascinated by the context of this bit. Usually one offs, parallel with Luke 11:9+ about prayer.
- Possible that Jesus said this twice, two different occasions? I think so, as with other things. What is it in the flow of this? I think the **therefore** of **12** and the bit before give us a clue.
- **7:7-11** Pretty self explanatory. Keep on **asking/seeking/knocking**. Shows our responsibility and the Lord's heart when it comes to prayer.
- **7:12** But, tag it with therefore, dealing with the sin of others and hypocrisy before that.
  - What do you have? An exhortation to pray for right relationships with others.
  - What's more, this includes the Father. How do you treat Him?
  - **Matthew 22:37-40** echoes this and includes the Lord.
  - Do you feel ignored by the Lord? Do you feel like He never talks to you? How do you treat Him?
  - How about this; do you have relationship with the Trinity? Relationship reflects reality.

#### - 7:13-27 Jesus changes gears. What are you going to do with this?

- **7:13-14**

- A choice. The way it is. You don't earn what's at the end in either case. Consequence of choice.
- This is hard. Anything beautiful is. Cost friends, family, money, job, life.
- Why do so few find it? Above reasons and following.
- **7:15-20** False prophets. Be fruit inspectors. Compare teaching and fruit to scripture.
- **7:21-23** Why would this happen? Because of the false teachers and those who follow them. Or, any other number of weird reasons. Imagine working at McDonald's without actually being hired. "Ronald, did I not flip burgers in your name?"
  - There is a difference between doing things that are in line with what is OK with the Lord, or what He might want, and doing things that are actually His will. Blackabe.
  - Even things that require his power, or at least look like they do? Yes. Simon the magician.
  - Lordship isn't demonstrated by saying He is your lord, but by knowing and doing His will. Otherwise, He never knew you, nor you Him.
  - What is the solution? Relationship!
- **7:24-27** and believes them? and philosophically or ethically agrees with them? and thinks that's nice for you but I have a different truth? **No, does them!** Christian, is He your Lord? That is what you signed up for. Did you know that?
- **7:28-29** The scribes and teachers of the law usually referred to other people for their authority, like quoting another Bible teacher. Jesus spoke with the conviction of the Spirit.

### The big picture

- The reality, the depth, the genuineness of your relationship with God will be reflected in your relationships with others.
- On the flip side, your relationships with others will be an indication of the positions God and His word hold in your life.
- (Depending on time, either read through entire SotM and reinforce, or hit highlights and reinforce.)
- The simplicity of Lordship
  - The seriousness or heaviness (Marty McFly) of things like God's sovereignty, our repentance, how much we tolerate sin in our lives, devotion, discipline.
  - The release, the lightness of the peace, joy, life, love that is the result of simple faith and genuine relationship.
  - What would someone's life look like if they picked up this book, read it, and did it? What would your life look like? Mine?
  - Sometimes, myself included, we need to (as Yoda put it) unlearn what we have learned. Not so much theologically, but in terms of how complicated we have made things, how many obstacles we have bought into or built ourselves.
- We have heard His words. What are we going to do them? What are we going to do with Him?